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ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/DEVELOPER**PAUL ANKA**
18 GOLD RECORDS**N. ELDON TANNER**
FIRST PRESIDENCY, LOS CHURCH**PAT OLIPHANT**
PULITZER PRIZE CARTOONIST**DR. GEORGE E. PALADE**
NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE**RICK BARRY**
NBA'S MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**IRVING STONE**
BIOGRAPHICAL NOVELIST**MAJ. GEN. THOMAS STAFFORD**
COMMANDER, APOLLO-SOYUZ MISSION**JOHN WAYNE**
ALL-TIME BOX OFFICE CHAMPION*partial list. Each member is a past
recipient of the Golden Plate Award.

AMERICAN

ACADEMY OF ACHIEVEMENT



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TO: Academy members and friends
FROM: Brian and Wayne Reynolds
SUBJECT: 1978 Banquet Report #3WAYNE R. REYNOLDS
Coordinator, Golden Plate Invitations

December 19, 1977

The Academy is pleased to announce the first group of 1978 guests of honor for the
Banquet of the Golden Plate at Owensboro, Kentucky on Saturday evening, June 24.

- Colonel Ulrich Wegener, West Germany's "hero of the stunning commando rescue" of 86 skyjacked hostages -- inspiring leader of perhaps "the best anti-terrorist group in existence"... "every man a volunteer with the ability to stay cool under stress...each a master of karate, knife fighting, scuba diving, stunt driving, and weapons ranging from machine pistols to sniper rifles"...this "wiry and tough, quiet and smart" perfectionist had "so impressed the Israelis" that he was invited to join the famed Entebbe raid..."where he was wounded in the arm by a bullet"...then he astounded the world by leading his squad's daring swoop out of the "humid African darkness" into Mogadishu, Somalia...nearly 4,000 miles from their home-base...to "close a terrifying ordeal, after a five-day, six-country odyssey, for the plane's crew and passengers" who had witnessed the cold-blooded execution of their pilot...a feat of bravery and gallantry which earned him his nation's Grand Cross of Merit...and the acclaim of the international press, including cover stories by Time and Newsweek, which memorialized the argosy: "It was 2:04 a.m...the skyjacked Lufthansa jet sat quietly alongside the runway, the 86 terrorized hostages inside waiting desperately under a threat of execution. Suddenly there was a blinding flash and a deafening roar from an anti-terrorist 'numb' grenade, and two German commandos in goggles and blackened faces raced down the aisle of the Boeing 737...firing as they ran at the skyjackers who stumbled from the aircraft's cockpit. Two of the terrorists were killed instantly in a burst of submachine-gun fire, and their leader...a ranting sadist...was mortally wounded while tossing grenades at the invaders. Minutes later, as the dazed and exhausted hostages began sliding down emergency-exit chutes, a West German official on the ground sent a radio message to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Bonn...'The job is done.'"
- Dr. Philip W. Anderson, researcher at Bell Telephone Laboratories and Professor of Physics at Princeton University -- co-recipient of the 1977 Nobel Prize in Physics... for "laying some of the theoretical foundations of modern electronic circuitry, which make possible computers and other electronic marvels, and for paving the way for a new generation of less costly semiconductors"...he is one of "three pioneers" in solid-state physics who have "changed significantly man's understanding of his world"...and whose "work at the frontiers of physics" have resulted in the rush by several major companies around the world "to perfect glassy solar cells that will be able inexpensively to convert sunlight directly to electricity, perhaps at less cost than it now takes to generate electricity from burning fuel."

A non-profit, tax-exempt organization, dedicated to the Inspiration of Youth--to raise their sights high;
to excel in their endeavors--through the dramatic annual salute...at the Banquet of the Golden Plate...
to Captains of Achievement from America's great walks of life and honor students from across the nation.

- Jack Dempsey, former Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the World, New York City -- chosen by vote of 500 sports editors, writers and broadcasters across the country as "one of the greatest athletes of all time"...who thrilled the world in 1919 when he "destroyed Jess Willard and won the heavyweight title" ...this "tough, hell-bent, savage" immortal of sport is the author of "Dempsey"...the fascinating autobiography of "a living legend"...describing his early years as a Colorado miner and migrant laborer, his decision to make capital of his greatest talent (the ability to punch with devastating power) ...his struggles against poverty and frustration to attain the championship"...his incredible 1924 victory over Firpo after being knocked over the ropes into the crowd...("I don't remember climbing back into the ring, but I remember seeing about 20 Firpos standing in front of me...I crashed a left to his jaw and Firpo went down as if he had been struck by lightning. He didn't move as the referee counted him out, to the roars of the excited crowd")...the fabled 14-second "long count" when the "idol of millions" smashed Tunney to the canvas "with a powerful right followed by a left hook and then more blows"...in their 1927 return fight for the world championship at Chicago's Soldiers Field before 105,000 wild fans ...an epic that created "more than 50 years of controversy" and is hailed as "one of the most dramatic moments in sports history"...the parade of colorful people weaving in and out of his life ...movie stars, presidents, gangsters, and four glamorous wives"...all captured in an unforgettable memoir from "the last of the great sports heroes of yesterday."
- Omar N. Bradley, General of the Army, Fort Bliss, Texas -- America's only living five-star General.
- The Honorable Frank M. Johnson, Jr., Chief Judge of the United States District Court, Montgomery, Alabama -- one of America's most eminent jurists..."who has probably handed down more important and innovative rulings than any trial judge in U.S. history"...and who "in 22 shattering years on the Federal bench has all but revolutionized the South's, and the nation's, conception of civil-rights law"...he was appointed in 1955 as "the youngest Federal judge in the country"...began his "rendezvous with history" only three weeks later when a black seamstress refused to surrender her bus seat to a white man...extended (as part of a three-man court) the Supreme Court's 1954 ruling on school integration to include public transportation...became, "in courageous front-line enforcement of the Constitution", the first Federal judge to require the integration of parks (1959), libraries (1962), and juries (1966)...abolished the poll tax (1966) and declared unconstitutional the state's tuition-grant system allowing whites to attend segregated "private schools" (1967)...was then heralded in a Time cover story as "one of the most important men in America"...continued "his role as point man for social change" which "brought him and his family ostracism, vituperation, cross burnings, and death threats"...to prove himself "a stern, uncompromising upholder of the rule of law"...a man who gives true meaning to the word 'justice'."
- Richard E. Leakey, the world's most renowned anthropologist...hailed as the "organizing genius" in the "search for human origins"...and Director of the National Museums of Kenya, at Nairobi -- "heir to one of the greatest surnames in anthropology"...who was "born for his role"...from the age of six months, he was taken on expeditions with his famous parents and learned to recognize fossils almost before he could talk"...and today, at 32, is "a formidable scientist in his own right"...credited with the "exciting discovery" of a two million year old skull which "helped upset many long-held ideas on evolution and has forced science to write a new scenario for man's slow progress from ape to Shakespeare's 'paragon of animals' "...he was heralded recently in a Time cover story: "It is one of the least hospitable places on earth. A steady wind moans over the crocodiles basking on the banks...Beyond stretches the desert of northeast Kenya, baked by the African sun...A sandy-haired man moves slowly, his loose shorts and shirt flapping in the breeze, his head bare to the sun, his eyes searching the arid soil at his feet...The intent man in the desert is Richard Erskine Leakey...He and his dusty band are looking, almost literally, for footprints in the sands of time, for clues to the mystery of man's origins."
- Sean MacBride, Ireland's former Foreign Minister and a founder/longtime executive committee chairman of Amnesty International, Dublin -- recipient of the 1974 Nobel Peace Prize...and the 1977 International Lenin Prize for Peace...his efforts were further recognized when his "human rights organization dedicated to freeing political prisoners and ending the use of torture around the world" was awarded the 1977 Nobel Prize for Peace.

- Admiral Stansfield Turner, USN, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C. -- "a remarkable military officer"... "highly imaginative and extremely energetic"... he was "No. 1 in his class at Annapolis"... won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford... served on destroyers during the Korean War... "logged an impressive career both at sea and on land"... was appointed president of the Naval War College, where he "won acclaim for reforms of the curriculum" and "spurred far-ranging brainstorming seminars on how recent international developments affect U.S. strategy"... became commander of the U.S. Second Fleet... then became Commander in Chief of the Allied Forces in Southern Europe... and, facing the greatest challenge of his career, this year "steamed into CIA headquarters under a clear set of orders from Jimmy Carter: strip some of the cloaks, daggers and confusion from United States intelligence operations."
- Dr. Armand Hammer, Chairman/Chief Executive, Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Los Angeles -- heralded by Atlantic Monthly as "The One-Man Flying Multinational", in a Finance cover story as "Mr. World Citizen", and saluted in the book "The Remarkable Life of Dr. Armand Hammer" as the entrepreneur who developed Occidental Petroleum from "a company with three employees and a net worth of \$34,000 when he bought it as a money-losing tax shelter in 1956... into one of America's biggest U.S. oil producers with an annual after-tax profit of over 300 million dollars."
- Tony Auth, editorial cartoonist for The Philadelphia Inquirer... and syndicated to 70 other newspapers across the country -- a young artist who sharpened his fangs on the staff of the UCLA Daily Bruin... and has quickly earned his place along with Herblock, Oliphant, and MacNelly as a political commentator whose skillful draftsmanship and biting humor brings a daily chuckle, or perhaps a moment of serious reflection, to millions of his fans... this master of satire is the 1976 recipient of America's most prestigious honor of his craft... the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartoons.
- J. Robert Fluor, President/Chairman/Chief Executive, Fluor Corporation... dedicated civic leader who serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Southern California... and Los Angeles Chairman of the United Way Campaign -- chosen by Financial World Magazine in 1974 and 1975 as "Most Outstanding Chief Executive Officer" of the construction service industry... he has been hailed in a Business Week cover story, and by Time Magazine as the head of an international empire which "has won more business than almost any other heavy construction firm... with a current backlog of projects worth an incredible 10 billion dollars."
- George P. Mitchell, Founder/Chairman/President of Mitchell Energy & Development Corporation, Houston -- heralded by Fortune and Forbes as an "oilman's oilman" who "climbed from the humblest beginnings to create a personal fortune now worth as much as \$250 million", this offspring of Greek immigrant parents "spent much of his youth running errands for his parent's small clothes-pressing and shoeshine business"... arrived at Texas A&M's legendary School of Petroleum Engineering with \$50 in his pocket... worked his way through by "busing tables, picking up wealthier student's laundry, and running a candy concession from a card table"... went on to the oil fields "to find gas for investors who payed him enough to eat plus a piece of whatever he found"... gradually built his empire which today is "one of the nation's biggest independent producers of oil and natural gas"... and also owns 66,000 acres of land, including "Woodlands"... a Manhattan-sized development... "an artful blend of the natural and the residential"... that is planned to accommodate a population of 150,000... and which has earned him the title of "Master Builder."

The Friday evening outing at the nearby Green estate -- will feature an informal dinner hosted by Kentucky Fried Chicken, Inc.... under the personal supervision of 1975 Golden Plate honoree, Col. Harland Sanders. One of the weekend symposiums, giving several honorees an opportunity to reminisce on highlights of their career, will close that event... after which the 300 honor students from across the USA (and perhaps some courageous adults) will cruise the Ohio River, and dance away the rest of the evening, on a paddle-wheeler. The entire evening is being arranged by our 1978 "Salute to Excellence" chairman, Bob Green, '68 awardee.